

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15-18 and amend claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 19 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
  - a) forming a complex consisting of a nucleic acid and a ~~polymer~~ polycation in a solution wherein the complex has a net charge less negative than the nucleic acid;
  - b) ionically ~~attaching~~ associating a charged polymer to the complex of step a) in sufficient amount to form a new complex having a net charge more negative than the complex in step a);
  - c) inserting the complex into a mammal;
  - d) delivering the complex to the cell.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the ~~polymer~~ polycation is selected from the group consisting of PLL and PEI.
4. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the charged polymer comprises a polyanion.
5. (previously amended) The process of claim 4 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of succinylated PLL, succinylated PEI, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, dextran sulfate, heparin, hyaluronic acid, DNA, RNA, and negatively charged proteins.
6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the charged polymer comprises a block copolymer.
7. (original) The process of claim 4 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of pegylated derivatives, pegylated derivatives carrying specific ligands, block copolymers, graft copolymers and hydrophilic polymers.
8. (currently amended) A tertiary complex for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
  - a) the nucleic acid;
  - b) a polycation polymer complexed with the nucleic acid; and,
  - c) a polyanion polymer, having a molecular weight of at least 30 kDa, complexed with the polycation via ionic interaction, wherein the polyanion polymer is not the nucleic acid of a).
9. (canceled)

10. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polycation is selected from group consisting of PLL and PEI.
11. (canceled)
12. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polyanion polymer is selected from the group consisting of succinylated PLL, succinylated PEI, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, dextran sulfate, heparin, hyaluronic acid, DNA, RNA, and negatively charged proteins
13. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein each polymer comprises a block co-polymer.
14. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of pegylated derivatives, pegylated derivatives carrying specific ligands, block copolymers, graft copolymers and hydrophilic polymers.
- 15-18. (canceled)
19. (currently amended) A process for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell, comprising:
  - a) forming a tertiary complex, consisting of ~~three polymers having a net charge~~ a first polymer, a second polymer and a third polymer in a solution wherein ~~two of the polymers~~ the first polymer and the third polymer each have a net negative charge, ~~and one of the two polymers~~ the first polymer but not the third polymer consists of the nucleic acid, and the polymers are associated through ionic interactions;
  - b) inserting the complex into a mammal;
  - c) delivering the complex to the cell.